

THE STATE OF IDAHO
SUPREME COURT



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NEWS RELEASE

**For Immediate Release
June 13th, 2011**

Idaho Supreme Court Announces Children's Advocate and Protector Award

(Boise) – Emily Carroll of Coeur d'Alene is the latest recipient of the Children's Advocate and Protector Award presented annually by the Idaho Supreme Court's Child Protection Committee. The award acknowledges the work of those who strive to improve outcomes for Idaho's abused and neglected children.

Recognizing the challenges many foster kids face while trying to afford up-to-date and stylish clothes, Emily, a junior at Post Falls High School, founded the non-profit North Idaho Clothing Exchange (NICE). Afterwards, she began a letter writing campaign to clothing suppliers and eventually landed a sizeable donation of new clothing and accessories from Aeropostale of New York that allowed her to open the store. The public, other local used clothing stores and Aeropostale continue to make donations.

"Her innovation in working within the confines of a small community and economic crisis as well as the ability to join numerous systems to bring her idea to fruition is remarkable," said Karen Kerbs of the Department of Health and Welfare.

Volunteers of America offered space to distribute the clothing at Project Safe Place in the Couer d'Alene library. The store is open twice a month and Emily regularly donates five to 10 hours of her time each week organizing, distributing, and managing the operation.

"To me, it doesn't make sense why my friends and I can go buy something at Aeropostale but a foster kid, kids raised by relatives, or a homeless kid can't. They didn't do anything wrong. It just doesn't seem fair. I decided to develop my own organization because I thought it would be a good idea to give kids a chance to do something fun, not worry about money, and be able to shop for the cool clothes that they like," said Emily.

The program was originally designed with junior high students in mind, but now distributes clothing for infants, high school, and college aged individuals.

Magistrate Judge Bryan K. Murray will present the award to Emily in Moscow on Thursday, June 16th, during the Center for Inquiry's Student Leadership Conference.

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